

## Breathalyzers successful at 2015 Gradnite

BY GILLIAN SMITH, EDITOR

[GILLIAN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM](mailto:GILLIAN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM)

TWITTER: @DUXBURYCLIPPER

“Transition” was the theme for this year’s senior class, as they entered a new school building, charged with setting the tone for the future of Duxbury High School.

This transition period was apparent in several traditions, not the least of which was Gradnite, an event held for graduates at the high school on the night of graduation. This year, organizers of the Gradnite event were informed that if they wanted to host the event inside the new school they would have to employ the use of breathalyzers for all students.

“Historically, kids have come to Gradnite drunk and as the effects take place over the course of the night, they get sick,” said Laura Neprud, event co-chair. “[Using the breathalyzer] was a stipulation to use the new school building, and we ran with it because we wanted to use it.”

Neprud and co-chair Paula Barry said there was some initial pushback against the breathalyzers, but they were both pleased with its success.

“It went off without a hitch,” Neprud said. “It took between five and eight seconds for each students. With this device, you can blow either green, yellow or red — green means no alcohol is present, yellow means a trace of alcohol is present and red is above the legal limit — and 100 percent of our students were green.”

With the help of over 200 volunteers and over \$5,000 in donations from local businesses, Neprud said the event was successful, especially because it was the first time it was held in such a large space.

“We utilized the gyms, two classrooms, presentation hall and the cafeteria,” she said. “At some points it seemed as if we didn’t have a whole lot of students, but we heard from students that they liked not having to wait in line.”

While Gradnites in the past have typically had an 80 percent attendance rate, Neprud said about 62 percent of the graduating class attended this year’s event, which she attributes to the use of the breathalyzer.

“I hope that students will hear how much fun students had at this year’s Gradnite and more will come to next year’s event,” she said. “We just wanted to give them the very best party we can.”

Neprud said the groundwork for Gradnite was laid years ago by the hard work of previous chairs and she is looking forward to helping organize next year’s event.

“We are carrying on the tradition, just in new ways,” she said.

At the end of the night, Neprud said all of the students showed appreciation for the hard work of all of the volunteers who made the event possible.

“You wouldn’t believe all of the ‘Thank you’s’ we got,” she said. “I’m really appreciative that they were so appreciative of our hard work.”